

AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Winter 2001

\$2.50

**Clean Water:
Essential For Life**

**National FFA
Officers Visit SC**

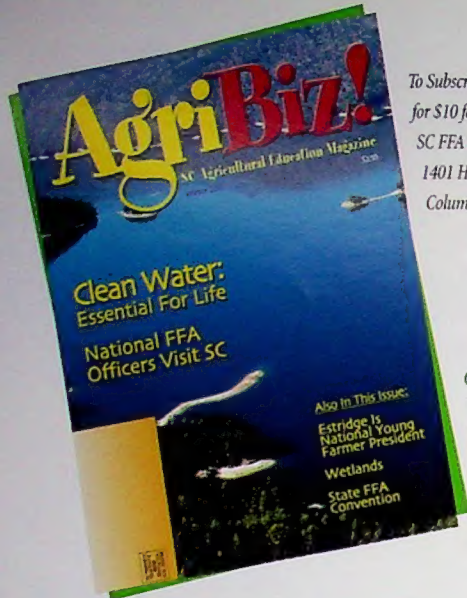
Also In This Issue:

**Estridge Is
National Young
Farmer President**

Wetlands

**State FFA
Convention**

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Cover Photo:

This photograph of Lake Jocassee in Oconee County was provided by the SC Department of Natural Resources. See bottom of page for information on SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE magazine.

Natural Resources Education

Natural resource appreciation and protection is an integral part of agricultural education in South Carolina high schools through the FFA, Young Farmer and Agribusiness Associations, and other life-long learning programs.

Studying soil identification and land treatment along with wildlife production and management in the classroom and the outdoor laboratory makes natural resource education an interesting and exciting part of agricultural education in our state.

We are pleased to recognize the state-winning FFA soil judging teams who will represent South Carolina in the National Competition this spring and the state-winning FFA Wildlife team in this issue.

There is also a feature article on "Clean Water—Essential for Life" by John Hassell, executive director of the National Conservation Technology Information Center, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, and another on "Wetlands" by Dr. Patrick Hunt, Director of the USDA Coastal Plains Soil, Water and Plant Research Center in Florence, SC.

Information on the Governor's Natural Resource Institute For High School Youth scheduled this summer is included along with a report of the Governor's Summit on Agriculture and Natural Resources.



John W. Parris
Executive Director,
Office of Public Affairs

For subscription information on SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE magazine contact: the SC Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202 or call 803-734-3888.

AgriBiz!

Winter 2001

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Clean Water

ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE

by John Hassell, Director
National Conservation Technology Information Center

Like many Americans, I'm guilty of taking water for granted. I turn on the tap and water comes out. I can trust in the quantity and quality of my water.



For every human, water is essential for life. So taking care of our water supplies should be a priority for all of us. Of the 1,700 million square miles of water on Earth, 97 percent is saltwater. Of the 3 percent that's freshwater, 2.2 percent is locked in glaciers and ice caps, .6 percent is groundwater, .1 percent is in lakes and streams, and less than .1 percent is found in the atmosphere.^[1]

Individuals depend on water for nearly everything, from basic survival to recreation and employment. Water regulates the human body temperature, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushions joints, protects organs and tissues, and removes waste. The average total home water use for each person in the United States is about 50 gallons a day. Americans drink more than 1 billion glasses of tap water per day.^[2] The average cost of water supplied to a home in the United States is about \$2 per 1,000 gallons.^[3]

As a nation, we use a lot of water. Public water supplies in the United States process nearly 34 billion gallons of water per day for domestic and public use.^[4]

Production of the average Sunday newspaper requires approximately 150 gallons of water. Making a car and four tires requires approximately 40,000 gallons of water.^[5] To keep their cars clean, Americans use 160 million gallons of water each year.^[6]

Water is equally important to agriculture. Irrigation and livestock watering accounts for roughly 40 percent of our total fresh water use, with 84 percent of that considered consumptive use.^[7]

Approximately 1,000 gallons of water are necessary to grow and process each pound of food that you and I eat. And we Americans eat a lot. Some estimates say the average person will consume 1,500 pounds of food each year.^[8]

Because water is an essential ingredient for life, many in the agricultural community are taking action to protect our precious water resources. Producers who recognize the value of clean water implement conservation practices that reduce polluted runoff and protect nearby waterways. Producers also set an example of environmental stewardship for the next generation that inherits the land.

As a national public/private partnership, the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) supports producer efforts to improve profitability while maintaining environmental stewardship. CTIC promotes a national campaign known as Core 4 Conservation. Core 4 Conservation is CTIC's flagship initiative that promotes the principles of Better Soil, Cleaner Water, Greater Profits and Brighter Future. Core 4 Conservation is an innovative approach to farm profitability and conservation that all of agriculture can embrace. Before we will see nationwide improvements to water quality, agriculture must embrace a unifying message that promotes conservation and profitability. Core 4 Conservation is that message: Better Soil, Cleaner Water, Greater Profits and a Brighter Future. Join me and become a Core 4 Conservation supporter for agriculture's future.

THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTER

See the Center's web page:
www.ctic.purdue.edu/ctic.html or call the
Center at (765) 494-9555.

[1] Metro WaterNet, website: www.nashville.org/wsd/drinking5.html

[2] Ibid.

[3] Metro WaterNet, website: www.nashville.org/wsd/drinking5.html

[4] American Water Works Association, website: www.awwa.org/fbae/humb99/facts.htm

[5] Ibid.

[6] Water Island Water Facts, website: www.waterisland.com/wisfact.htm

[7] U.S. Geological Survey Report, Estimated Use Of Water In The United States in 1995

[8] Washington State Water Resources Association, website: www.wrcwa.com/wesira/waterfacts.htm

Natural & Constructed WETLANDS

Benefit Farmers

by Dr. Patrick G. Hunt
Research Leader/Director

Wetlands have been an important part of agriculture and natural resources development throughout the history of the USA. Until recently, the focus was on managing excess water associated with wetlands. However, advances in our understanding of the function and use of both natural and constructed wetlands have altered the focus toward effective use of wetland processes and functions of water storage and quality benefits along with wildlife habitat.

Wetlands slow water flowing through them, thus trapping much of the sediment it carries. They also trap any nutrients and/or toxins absorbed on the sediment. Wetlands are particularly well-adapted for incorporating or removing excess nitrogen, which has the potential to contaminate both streams and groundwater.

Scientists at the Coastal Plains Soil, Water and Plant Research Center in Florence have demonstrated the importance of natural wetlands to control non-point pollution.



These scientists have also demonstrated that constructed wetlands are effective in treating swine lagoon wastewater.

Research at the Center continues to improve the understanding of wetland processes and the enhancement of their effectiveness.

Research conducted at the Center is helping the agriculture community optimize the use of wetlands. For more information visit the Center's web site at www.florence.ars.usda.gov or call 843-669-5203.



Crestwood Wetland Project & Outdoor Classroom

The Agriculture/Natural Resources Program at Crestwood High School in Sumter, has been involved in a very unique natural resources management project. When the school was founded in 1996, a wetland area was discovered on the property.

As a result of the presence of the wetland area, the school entered into the USDA-sponsored Wetland Reserve Program which was designed to restore wetlands to their original hydrology and vegetation. As a result of this cooperative agreement, the area has been developed into a very special outdoor laboratory. Many additions have been made including a boardwalk, a pier overlooking a pond, and a nature trail.

The Agriculture/Natural Resources classes use the area for a wide range of activities, such as water and soil testing, ecological succession,



CRESTWOOD FFA MEMBERS
(kneeling left to right) Shane Oxendine, Lester Collier and Orin Lewis. Standing (left to right) Cassie Drum, Felicia Smith and Agricultural Education/Natural Resources Teacher Steve Sanderson.

identification of trees, native plants and wildlife, and building construction. Other departments such as English, Math and Art also use the area for unique learning experiences.

The Outdoor Classroom in the wetland area provides a different type of learning atmosphere for students. This special place on the Crestwood High School Campus helps stimulate the students to observe the natural world around them. Natural Resource Education makes a positive difference in the lives of students by helping them develop an appreciation for nature that they will carry with them for a lifetime. This is what education is all about.

by Stephen Sanderson
Agricultural Education Teacher

South Carolina FFA, Young Farmer & Agribusiness Members Participate In Governor's Summit

Seventy five FFA members, nine Agricultural Education Teachers and two Clemson University Agricultural Education student teachers attended the Governor's Summit on Agriculture and Natural Resources held at the Florence Civic Center on February 27.

FFA members from Branchville High School, Lexington Technology Center, Manning High School, Lamar High School, Latta High School, McBee High School, Chesterfield High School, Pageland Central High School and Cheraw High School were present for the Summit.

Christopher Harrington, State FFA Secretary from the Manning FFA Chapter, addressed the Summit luncheon along with nationally known Farm Broadcaster Orion Samuelson of WGN TV and Radio in Chicago, Illinois.

Darlington Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter member Ray Galloway served on a panel entitled "Agricultural Success Stories" moderated by Dr. John Kelly, Vice President of Public Service and Agriculture, Clemson University. Mr. Galloway was named the Lancaster/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year for South Carolina in 2000.

Clark Burrows, president of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, Sumter, along with Roger Estridge,

president of the National Young Farmer Education Association and an Agricultural Education Teacher at Andrew Jackson High School in Kershaw, and David DeWitt of Darlington, recently named Outstanding Young Farmer in South Carolina, also attended.

The South Carolina FFA Association was a co-sponsor of the Summit in partnership with other organizations and agencies. The goal of the Summit was to draw as many people together as possible to plan for the future of South Carolina's agriculture and natural resources. Participants heard from leading authorities on topics ranging from the future of the U.S. tobacco market to biotechnology; from agricultural issues affecting rural and urban South Carolina to the latest official report from the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture.



National Farm Broadcaster Orion Samuelson of WGN TV Chicago, Illinois, with Christopher Harrington, State FFA Secretary.

Wanted: _____ ADVENTUROUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR OUTDOOR WORKSHOP

The Governor's Institute for Natural Resource Conservation is scheduled for June 18-22 at Lander University for approximately 100 high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates. The Institute is conducted by the SC Department of Natural Resources and sponsored by the SC Conservation Districts Foundation, businesses and individuals.

Delegates will have an opportunity to earn one hour of college credit in Environmental Science at Lander and compete for several college scholarships, some as much as \$1000. Educational experiences will include a raft ride down the wild and scenic Chattooga River.

The cost for a delegate to attend the Institute is usually provided by the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

For additional information contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (listed in telephone directory under county government) or on the web at www.dnr.state.sc.us/lwc/admin/fieldoff.html#cdistricts or contact:

Briana Timmerman • SC DNR
1201 Main St., Ste 1100 • Columbia, SC 29201
telephone (803) 737-0800 or
email: btimmerman@water.dnr.state.sc.us



SC FFA Teams To Compete In National Soil Judging Finals

The Calhoun Falls and Abbeville High School FFA Soil Judging Teams will compete in the National Soil Judging Finals in May in Oklahoma. The Calhoun Falls team placed first in the State FFA Soils Competition, and the Abbeville team was the State Runner-up. As the two top State FFA Soils Judging Teams, they won expense-paid trips to participate in the National Soil Judging Competition.

The Calhoun Falls team members include David Dorn; Alex Gleason, who was the High Individual Scorer in the Finals and also won an expense trip to the National FFA Convention this fall; and Matthew and Josh Shea. Calvert Sherard, Agricultural Education teacher at Calhoun Falls, is the team advisor.

The Abbeville team members are Josh Hall, Scott White, Brantley Caldwell and Todd Stevenson. Fred Raines is the Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA advisor at Abbeville High School.

The awards were presented by Joe Gregory with the Carolina Power and Light Company in Raleigh.

The FFA Soil Judging Career Development Event in South Carolina is co-sponsored by Duke Power Company, South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, Carolina Power and Light Company, the SC Association of Conservation Districts and the SC Conservation Districts Foundation in concert with the SC FFA Association. Professional and technical assistance is provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Office of Agricultural Education at Clemson University, and the SC FFA Office of Public Affairs in Columbia.



Calhoun Falls FFA Soil Judging Team



Abbeville FFA Soil Judging Team

Zane Bryant Appreciates Natural Resource Management



Zane Bryant, a member of the Latta High School FFA Chapter and presently serving as vice president of the South Carolina FFA Association, understands and appreciates the importance of natural resource education, including an introduction to wildlife management, forestry and hunter safety, all of which he attributes to his training in Agricultural Education and the FFA.

Anderson FFA Chapter Receives Palmetto Pride Grant

The FFA Chapter in Anderson was awarded a \$1500 Litter Education Grant from PALMETTO PRIDE, the Governor's Task Force on Litter and Beautification on February 27. The announcement was made by State Senator David Thomas of Greenville, who serves as Chairman of PALMETTO PRIDE.

By participating in the PALMETTO PRIDE grant program, the Anderson FFA Chapter is demonstrating good citizenship and responsibility for a cleaner, more scenic and litter-free state. Your leadership shows that everyone can and should work together to renew a sense of pride in South Carolina, Senator Thomas said.

Jay Copelan, Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA Chapter Advisor at the Hanna-Westside Extension Campus, said the grant will be used for plant propagation.

Pelion FFA Team Takes Top State Honors In Wildlife Management Finals



Shown (left to right) is **Frank R. Stover, Jr.**, Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA Advisor at Pelion High School with state-winning Wildlife Management Team members **Daniel Jeffcoat**, **Kale Green**, **Michael Fields**, second High Individual Scorer and **Adam Goings**, the High Individual Scorer in the Statewide FFA-sponsored competition held recently at the National Wild Turkey Federation Headquarters in Edgefield, SC. The team will compete in the National Finals in Missouri later this year.

South Carolinians Receive Honorary American FFA Degree

Four distinguished South Carolinians have been awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree by the National FFA Organization. State Senator **Nikki G. Setzler** of West Columbia, a member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Education Committee, was presented the prestigious award by the National FFA president and vice president at ceremonies in Columbia, SC, in January.

Dr. Laurie C. Lawson from Darlington, SC, recently retired as executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, was also presented the award by the National FFA Officers.

Dan Schussler of Irmo, Federal-State Supervisor of Livestock Grading and Grain Market News Programs for the Carolinas, along with **Clark Woods** of Simpsonville, Agricultural Education Teacher at Hillcrest High School, was awarded the Honorary Degree at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky this past fall.

Raymond S. Caughman of Lexington, who was awarded the Honorary Degree earlier, was also recognized by the National Officers while they were in South Carolina.

The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest award presented by the National FFA Organization to individuals who provide outstanding support and leadership in advancing the FFA and Agricultural Education at the state and national level.

Outstanding Support & Leadership



Top Left: Senator Setzler with National FFA President Trent McKnight and National Vice President Katy Roth. Top Right: Dr. Laurie C. Lawson with national officers. Bottom Left: Clark Woods with former student Blake Berry. Bottom Right: Dan Schussler. Immediate Right: Raymond S. Caughman with national officers.



Aiken FFA Chapter Wins Three Star Gold Emblem Award At Convention

The Aiken High School FFA Chapter, one of the top seven chapters in South Carolina in 2000, walked away with top honors in the National FFA Chapter Awards and Recognition Program announced at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, in October. The Aiken Chapter was one of 102 chapters from among the more than 7,500 chapters in the nation to receive the prestigious Three Star Gold Emblem Award.

South Carolina's other six outstanding chapters who competed at the national level each received the Two Star Gold Emblem Award. Those chapters were Manning, McBee, Pageland Central, Belton-Honea Path, Loris and Wagener-Salley.

Washington FFA Leadership Conference Trip Scheduled

The South Carolina FFA Association has made plans for some outstanding FFA members to attend the Washington FFA Leadership Conference held in the Nation's Capitol, July 22-29, according to Jim Scott, executive director, SC FFA. Space is available for at least 30 chapter officers, members and advisors to join the new State FFA Officer Team on this learning experience of a lifetime. The cost of the conference is \$535 per student and \$560 for the teachers. This fee includes the cost of the conference plus one night's lodging enroute to Washington, DC. The State Officer Team will present a one day special leadership conference for the members and advisors who travel on the chartered bus.

Two scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to South Carolina FFA members at the upcoming State Convention. The Washington Leadership Conference application can be located on the web at <http://www.ffasc.org>. For additional information contact Jim Scott at 803-788-5700, ext. 33 or email at scott2@clemson.edu.



President

The environment is something we all have in common. We are all connected by a natural web that affects everyone from the farmer to the city dweller.

Greetings FFA members and friends! Welcome to the New Year! I hope the holiday season was a time to remember for each of you. Often times in the midst of a busy school year, we overlook those family members and friends who mean so much to us. I hope you spent some quality time with those who are most important in your life.

When the year 2000 came to a close, a new opportunity to start out with a fresh outlook and unlimited possibilities was opened up to us. Many of us celebrate this rebirth in time by making New Year's resolutions. Whether they range from losing weight to competing in a new FFA Career Development Event, these resolutions are what shape our outlook on this new year in our life. We may not always realize that our resolutions might benefit individuals in our community or even the community as a whole. How can we make our goals impact others?

The environment is something we all have in common. We are all connected by a natural web that affects everyone from the farmer to the city dweller. This means that every FFA member can do something to protect the natural world. Many of us grew up in an environmentally aware setting. When we went hunting, fishing, or just spent time outside, we were taught to respect the land so that everyone could benefit and enjoy similar experiences in the future. From an early age we were encouraged to recycle and conserve natural resources. Being environmentally aware can tie in with our FFA year as well.

If your FFA chapter is looking for some community development ideas, why not try adopting a highway, landscaping the school grounds, or creating a bird food plot or animal sanctuary. You, your chapter, your community, and nature will all benefit from an environmentally planned chapter activity. On the individual level, if you are a new member and are searching for a successful Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), why not look

into opportunities in environmental quality and natural resource protection? Although most agricultural practices center around the environment, some such as forestry and aquaculture deal directly with nature.

Continuing on the thought of resolutions or goals, perhaps you should fill out an FFA Proficiency Award Form this year. South Carolina FFA offers an array of environmentally positive proficiency awards including environmental and natural resource management, forest management and production, outdoor recreation, and wildlife management entrepreneurship and placement. If you are interested in any of these areas, get with your advisor and complete a proficiency award form. You may be a state or even a national winner. We never know until we try!

Membership in the FFA also offers many exciting chances to learn about the environment in the classroom and the outdoor laboratory. Many schools offer classes through Agricultural Education such as forestry, wildlife management, and natural resource conservation to help educate us about our environment. FFA members can put to use what they learn through their SAE's and by participating in the Wildlife, Forestry and Soils Career Development Events.

I want to thank each of you for your participation and interest in the FFA throughout 2000. Now, let's all work hard to make 2001 an even better and more successful year. As winter fades into spring, I encourage you to take a walk outside and enjoy what has been given to us by past generations, and observe carefully all that we must protect for future generations.



Blake Berry
South Carolina
FFA President



SOUTH CAROLINA FFA CONVENTION

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
June 6-June 8, 2001

WEDNESDAY, June 6

- 3 PM-BROOKS CENTER AUDITORIUM
Business Session and Delegate Orientation
- 6 PM-BROOKS CENTER GREEN ROOM & PATIO
Past State FFA and NFA Officers Reception
- 7 PM-BROOKS CENTER AUDITORIUM
First General Session
Recognition and Keynote Address followed by Ice Cream Social and recreation at OLD BAND FIELD

THURSDAY, June 7

- 7-8:30 AM BROOKS CENTER AUDITORIUM
Second General Session
Award Presentations
State FFA Degree Ceremony
Honorary FFA Degree Ceremony
- 12:00 Noon-Luncheon for Honorary State FFA Degree Recipients, MADREN CENTER
- 1:30 PM-Career Development Events and Leadership and Technical Workshops
- 1:45-4:30 PM-National FFA Band and Chorus Auditions
- 7 PM-BROOKS CENTER AUDITORIUM
Third General Session
National FFA Chapter Awards State FFA Star In Agribusiness and State FFA Star Farmer Ceremony

FRIDAY, June 8

- 8:15 AM-BROOKS CENTER AUDITORIUM
Fourth General Session
Recognition of State Winning Career Development Events
National FFA Officer Address
Recognition of 2000-2001 State FFA Officer Team
Recognition of State Officers Parents and Advisors
Installation of 2001-2002 State FFA Officer Team

What's In A Name?

Over the past decade almost all of the Career and Technology Student Organizations have battled with the question of what their organization should be called.

The former Future Homemakers of America and the Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America recently changed their names. The Future Farmers of America in 1988 formally broke with the title of the Future Farmers to project a larger, more inclusive population by adopting the name the National FFA Organization. With that change a problem was created: what does the FFA "mean?" To date, the FFA has not made significant progress in changing the public's perception of our organization.

"To date the FFA has not made significant progress in changing the public's perception of our organization..."

The National FFA Organization is currently undergoing a comprehensive branding study. This study is designed to help us more clearly define who we are and in part to provide assistance in giving new meaning to the letters "FFA." Branding is defined as what our customers perceive of our organization. Through surveys, interviews, sampling, etc. our organization has learned much about what others think about us. Sixteen organizational assets were identified by our customer representatives as essential to the FFA brand. Those assets are grouped into five major categories as follows:

Character

Members are hard working; have good character; are noted for competence and trustworthiness; are supported by dedicated professional teachers; have commitment to purpose; promote citizenship and civic participation; develop the future leaders for community, state, and country; promote American values, morals, and high ideals; are enthusiastic, spirited and upbeat.

Agricultural core

Support from the agricultural industry; promotes leading-edge technology in agriculture; stewardship of all living things (food, fiber, and natural resources); grounded in local chapter decision-making.

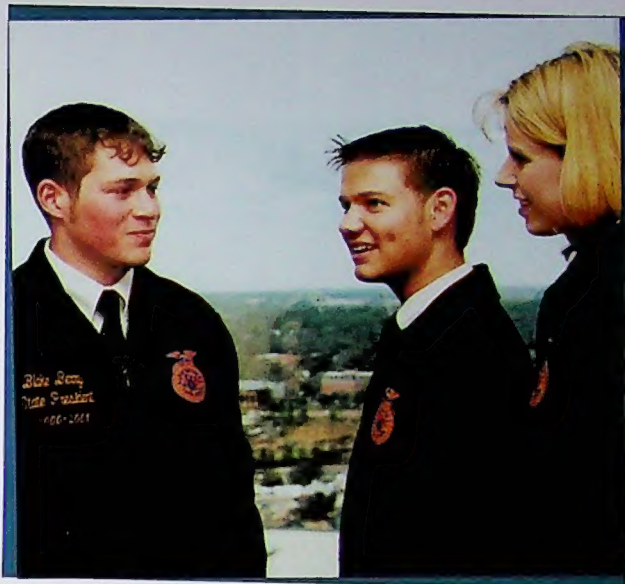
Experience

Provides opportunities to learn through hands-on activities; provides classroom hands-on and group learning environments.

Validation

A long history of proven success

FFA is a life changing organization, committed to students achieving their goals by discovering their unique talents and passions and making them real. Students participating in FFA see themselves as future leaders in some aspect of agriculture, food and fiber or natural resources. They understand that the things they are doing in school today are significant learning opportunities that will influence their future success and happiness. Members value the



hands-on activities their FFA advisors make available to them, and they work hard at those activities.

FFA members are confident in their abilities and themselves. Their enthusiastic spirit is inspiring to other students and admired by their teachers and families. Their individual competence is obvious to those who come into contact with them.

The FFA could stand for the "Future For Agriculture" or more likely the "Future For America."

As effective leaders, FFA members are concerned with more than just themselves and their own success. Being seen as trustworthy is very important to our members. They are career oriented and civic-minded. FFA members value belonging to an organization through which they can participate with their teachers and other professionals in fields of interest to them. They also value their associations with fellow FFA members, not only in their local chapter, but also throughout their state and even the nation.

What is in a name? Well, in regards to the FFA, there is more than any three words can fully describe. Our customers have said that the FFA stands for character, commitment to purpose, and agricultural core, experience, and validation. FFA could stand for the "Future For Agriculture" or more likely the "Future For America."



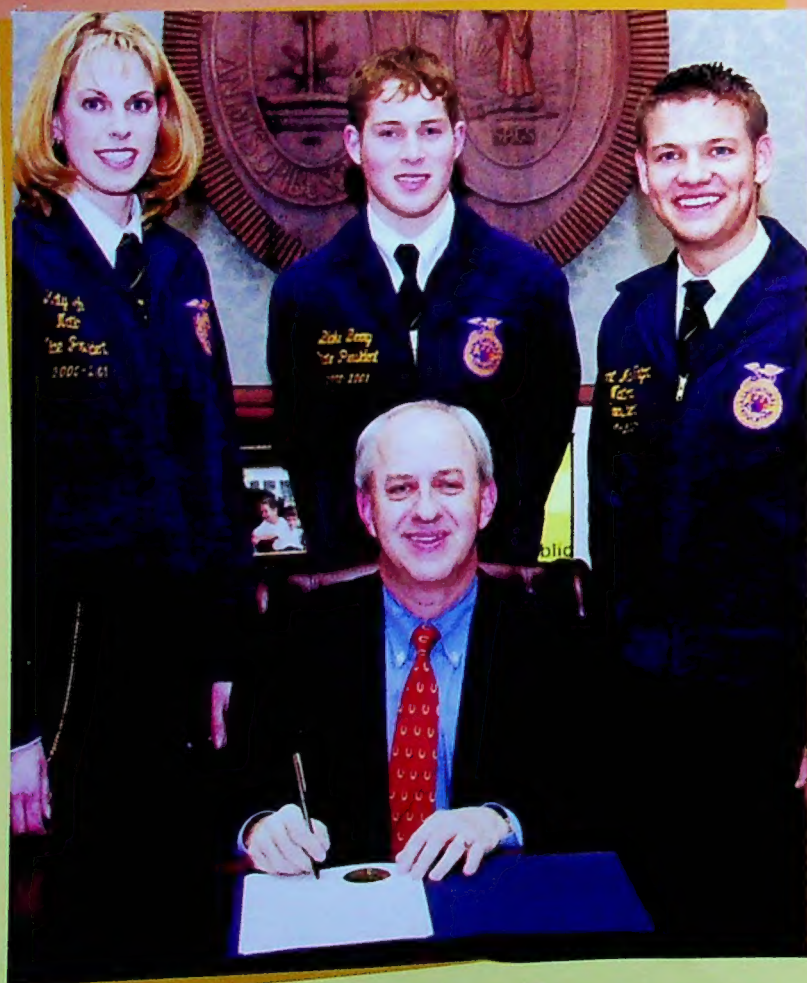
Tommy Gladden
State Leader

SC FFA Members

Roll Out The Red Carpet...

National FFA Officers Visit Chapters

By Jim Scott
SC FFA Executive Director



National FFA President Trent McKnight and Vice President Katy Poth started their whirlwind tour of South Carolina's FFA Chapters on January 29. They traveled over 1700 miles in five days as they met FFA members from all regions of the state. Their goal – to motivate and inspire every member to reach their potential! South Carolina was one of three states selected to serve as a training site for the National FFA Officers.

The officers began their journey with a visit to Clemson University. The Clemson Collegiate FFA Chapter hosted a reception where the officers met with Collegiate FFA members, Agricultural Education Faculty and staff, along with Dr. William Wehrenberg, Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson and others.

Governor Jim Hodges meets with National FFA officials Katy Poth, National FFA Vice President, Blake Berry, State FFA President, and National President Trent McKnight.



Manning FFA Members with National President Trent McKnight.



Strom Thurmond FFA Members Show National FFA Officers one of the putting greens on their campus.



National FFA President with Harry DuBose, Agricultural Education Teacher and Joe Dowling, Director of Career and Technology Education in the Myrtle Beach area.



National FFA Officers meet with Branchville FFA Officers.



National FFA Officers at Latta FFA Breakfast.

WORKSHOPS A HUGE SUCCESS

The national officers conducted four outstanding workshops that attracted over 1000 FFA members! Members were challenged to set goals, overcome obstacles, become involved and make a difference in their lives, their school and communities.

NATIONAL OFFICERS START NEW AG EDUCATION PROGRAM

Trent and Katy were a part of the school-wide assembly conducted at Carolina Forest Career Center near Myrtle Beach, for the announcement that a Turf Grass and Golf Course Management Program will be opened in the next school year.

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Throughout the week, radio, television and the print media interviewed Trent and Katy including a live interview with Trent on the WIS-TV Mid-Day Report in Columbia.

NATIONAL OFFICERS VISIT WITH STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Trent and Katy met with a number of top State and Federal Government officials including Governor Jim Hodges, who signed a Proclamation designating February 17-24 as National FFA Week in South Carolina. They also met with Lt. Governor Bob Peeler, State Representative Charles Sharpe, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and committee members Billy Witherspoon and Marty Coates, along with Senator Dick Elliott, a former FFA member, and Senator Nikki Setzler.

VISITING LOCAL CHAPTERS AND SCHOOLS

Another highlight of the tour included the opportunity for the national officers to visit with FFA members at Ware Shoals, Aiken and Lamar FFA Chapters.

A SALUTE TO THE HOST CHAPTERS

A special thank you to the Academy of Arts, Science and Technology Center, Aiken, Batesburg-Leesville, Belton-Honea Path, Branchville, Calhoun Falls, Lamar, Anderson (Hanna-Westside Campus), Latta, Laurens, Manning, McBee, Pelion, Strom Thurmond Technology Center, Wagener-Salley and Ware Shoals FFA Chapters, the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Group and the Pendleton School District Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Wray Smith.

The National Officers were impressed with the hospitality, friendship, great food and beautiful gifts they received from the host chapters. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

Comments From The State Young Farmer And AgriBusiness Association President Clark Burrows

This year's South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association convention was a great start to a new decade. Many thanks go out to the 2000 Executive Committee and our State Advisors for all their hard work to make this year's State Convention a huge success with the largest attendance, largest number of exhibitors and largest number of contest entries in years.

Congratulations to all of our district and state contest winners. I would especially like to recognize the State Young Farmer of the Year, David Dewitt from Darlington and the first recipient of the State Agribusiness of the Year Award, Frank Dorn of Saluda.

I would encourage each of you to show your appreciation to our sponsors and exhibitors for their time and financial support, because without them our convention would not be possible. Please thank the businesses and chapters that donated items for auction and door prizes.

This year's convention was a success; however, if anyone has ideas of how we can improve our future conventions please let the executive committee know.

It is time to look toward a new year. As your president I would like to set some state and personal goals for this year. First, I would like to see membership growth. At the close of 2000 we had roughly 850 members and 47 chapters. On a national level, we are 2nd in state membership. Let's set a goal to reach 1000 members in 2001. Talk to and encourage all farmers and agribusinessmen, young and old, to join.

NEW STATE OFFICERS FOR 2001

President: Clark Burrows, Sumter, SC
President-elect: John F. Cuttino, Cope, SC
Vice President: John McGee, Anderson, SC
Vice President: Ron Stevens, Chester, SC
Vice President: Les Galloway, Darlington, SC
Executive Treasurer: Edsel Williams, Brittons's Neck, SC
Past President: Tommy Mills, Blackstock, SC

In addition to increased membership, I have established several personal goals. First, I would like to see a FARM SAFETY PROGRAM implemented. This could be a field day for young children as well as for adults, regardless of whether they are involved in agriculture or not. The purpose would be to educate everyone on the importance of farm safety and treatment of farm related accidents. We could make this program possible by chapters, counties or district level. The executive committee and I will accept the challenge to find out exactly how we can get this program implemented in our state. Second, I want

to make it a point to get out and visit as many of our state chapters as possible during the year. Many of you only get to see and speak to your state officers at district meetings and the state convention. I would like to attend your chapter's monthly meeting to meet fellow farmers and agribusiness people to bring any news from the state executive/national level and to also listen to any ideas of suggestions that you may have.

As agriculturists, you know there is not enough hours in a day or days in a year to get everything done, but I will do my best to see that the goals for this year are accomplished. As members of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, you can do your part by talking with farmers and agribusinessmen who are not members and invite them to your chapter meetings. Who knows, maybe you will be the one to bring in our 1000th member.

I look forward to serving as your President. Please call on me if I can ever be of assistance.



Clark Burrows Meets With SC Governor Jim Hodges

Estridge Is President Of National Young Farmer Association

Roger M. Estridge, Jr., Agricultural Education Teacher at Andrew Jackson High School in Kershaw was elected President of the National Young Farmer Education Association at the annual conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in December, 2000.

A graduate of Clemson University with BS and MS Degrees in Agriculture, he is past president of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association. He owns and operates a beef cattle, hay and small grain farm in Anderson County in partnership with his brother Roy near Iva, SC.



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SC Young Farmer And Agribusiness Association Award Winners Named

by Billy Keels
Executive Director

A highlight of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, January 26-27, 2001 was the recognition of members and advisors who have excelled in farming, agribusiness and leadership. David DeWitt, a member of the Darlington Chapter was named the Outstanding Young Farmer in South Carolina. Regional winners were Charles Whitten of the West Oak Chapter in Westminster, and Ron Stevens of the Chester Chapter. This Recognition Program is sponsored by the Farm Credit Associations of South Carolina and the presentation of awards was made by Don Boice with the Pee Dee Farm Credit Association, Florence, SC.

Frank Dorn of the Edgefield Chapter was the recipient of the first state Outstanding Agribusiness Award. Regional winners were Herby Lutz of the Chester Chapter and Thad Williams of the Britton's Neck Chapter. This new award is sponsored by the Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, Marion, SC and was presented by Edsel Williams, Executive Treasurer of the Association.

Another new awards program this year was the recognition of the Outstanding Chapter Advisors. Al Jeffords, Agricultural Education Teacher at Lamar High School and an Advisor to the Darlington Chapter was named the Outstanding Advisor in the state. Stanley Gibson, Agricultural Education Teacher and Advisor to the West Oak Chapter in Westminster, was Region I winner and Barry Hawkins, Agricultural Education Teacher and Advisor to the Edisto Chapter in Orangeburg, was the Region II winner. This recognition program is sponsored by Delmar Publishing Company.

The Outstanding Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter in the state was Colleton-Bamberg. The Edgefield and Darlington Chapters were the Regional winners. This Awards Program is sponsored by Southern States Cooperative and was represented by Morrell Springs, Manager, Operations Support.



Frank Dorn (2nd from left) and wife, Arilla Dorn with advisors Hugh Bland (left) and Dan Henderson.



David DeWitt (left) with Al Jeffords

Listed here are the other State and region winners in the various contests:

Chapter President Award

State Winner Richard Chasteen, Crescent
Region II Winner Henry Herndon, Colleton-Bamberg
Region III Winner Ricky McDaniel, Hillcrest

Corn: Non-Irrigated

State Winner Ray Jameson, Edisto
State Runner-Up Tyron Williams, Britton's Neck

Corn: Irrigated

State Winner Russ Jameson, Edisto
State Runner-Up Clark Burrows, Hillcrest

Soybeans: Irrigated

State Winner William Jameson, Edisto

Soybeans: Non-Irrigated

State Winner Wes Woodward, Darlington Chapter

State Runner-Up William Jameson, Edisto

Cotton

State Winner Les Galloway, Darlington

State Runner-Up Mitch Tyner, Darlington

Small Grain

State Winner John McGee and Phillip Long, Double M Farms, Crescent

State Runner-Up Clark Burrows, Hillcrest

Energy Efficiency

State Winner Mitch Tyner, Darlington

Region I Winner Bob Abernathy, Clover

Region II Winner Melvin Crum, Orangeburg

Beef Production

State Winner Glen Brooks, Crescent

State Runner-Up Andrew Carter, Colleton-Bamberg

Swine Production

State Winner Jack Stewart, Darlington

State Runner-Up Andrew Carter, Colleton Bamberg

Ray Galloway

Ray Galloway of Darlington, a past president of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association and an Outstanding Young Farmer in that organization, has been selected for membership in Clemson University's Alumni Fellows Program.

Part of the responsibilities of a Clemson Alumni Fellow includes serving as a mentor, counselor and advisor to the students and faculty of Clemson University. Alumni Fellows are selected by individual colleges for their outstanding success in their chosen fields, said Matt Watkins, director of Clemson Alumni Association.



SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association FFA

Golf Tournament

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association has announced that the Third Annual Golf Benefit will be held Wednesday, June 6, at the beautiful Walker Course on the Clemson University Campus.

Registration will begin at 1:00 PM at the clubhouse near the Madren Center. A shotgun start will take place at 2:00 PM. An Awards Ceremony will be held following the benefit. The winning teams will also be recognized at the evening session of the State FFA

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Convention in Brooks Center.

The tournament will be captain's choice with teams made up of four people. The event will be limited to 100 participants. The awards are: 1st place team-\$400; 2nd place team-\$300; 3rd place team-\$200. There will also be numerous door prizes and a hole-in-one contest.

The cost to participate is \$60 per golfer. You may register as a team or an individual. All interested parties should contact Billy Keels at 843-662-3526, Ext. 253 for additional information and a registration packet.

Summer Young Farmer & Agribusiness Tour To Be In Sumter County

The 2001 Annual Summer Tour of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association will be hosted by the Hillcrest Chapter in Sumter County, July 20- 21.

The program begins with registration at 1 pm and the first tour begins at 4:30 pm with a visit to Garney, Inc., home of the only Ginkgo tree farm in America.

The second stop on the tour of the San Souci Farms, one of the top hay farms in South Carolina which produces hay for horses with a guaranteed protein content. The farm also produces Brangus cattle and squab.

On Saturday, the tour will begin at the farm of Alan Wooten, a Sumter County farmer who produces and markets ornamental trees for the growing horticulture industry.

The tour will continue to historic Boykin, SC, where there be a visit to a broom factory and the Boykin Grits Mill. The final stop will be at the Wateree Prison Farm which produces meat and milk for the entire prison system in South Carolina.

The tour will conclude with a lunch of squab, quail and plenty of barbecue chicken. Roland Alston, host of the "MAKING IT GROW" Television Program will provide the entertainment.

Mark your calendar now. More details will be provided in the next issue of AgriBiz.

SC Leaders Recognized At National Young Farmer Conference

Billy Keels, Executive Director, SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, was re-elected as a member of the National Young Farmer Association Board of Directors.

Edsel Williams, Executive Treasurer of

the SC Young Farmer and Agriculture Business Association, was named the Outstanding Young Farmer in the nation and his Rural Photography Scene photograph took first place honors in the national competition.

John W. Parris, State Executive Director of the Office of Public Affairs with the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, was named the Outstanding Agricultural Public Affairs Official in the nation.

It's Just Natural To Go To Central Carolina

When it comes to Central Carolina Technical College, one can only say that it is "natural" to go there, especially when it comes to its associate degree in natural resources management (NRM).

Based in Sumter, the college offers South Carolina's only associate degree on the subject and gives the best of all worlds, providing knowledge that isn't limited to a classroom surrounded by four walls.

In fact, students in the Central Carolina program receive the advantage of studying on over 105 acres where they can experience hands-on learning, in addition to classroom instruction that prepares them for success in managing such diverse areas as farmlands, wetlands, and woodlands.

Most of the learning happens at the college's Natural Resources Management Center, located just outside of Sumter, where students move along fields that are bordered by wooded and natural areas and a pond. A green house standing next to the center becomes yet another extended classroom for learning important lessons about nature.

And high school students who have successfully completed courses in forestry, horticulture, and natural resources management may also receive some advanced credit toward the degree.

Program manager Mike Shealy said the Central Carolina's NRM program also gives students the opportunity to gain recognition with potential employers. Besides maintaining relationships with many local professionals, the program provides training experiences within businesses that include such places as nearby Shaw Air Force Base, the South Carolina Forestry Commission, International Paper, and Johnston Lumber Company, not to mention arrangements with



"Students in the Central Carolina program receive the advantage of studying on over 105 acres where they can experience hands-on learning, in addition to classroom instruction that prepares them for success in managing such diverse areas as farmlands, wetlands, and woodlands."



several forestry and wildlife consultants in the private sector. The program also partners with the City of Sumter and a number of local landowners.

"It takes a person who has a desire and a commitment to work with natural resources and an ability to work with such everyday occurrences as weather changes and people contacts," Shealy said, noting that the Central Carolina program believes in a "holistic" approach. That is to say, students in the program get a comprehensive education, learning about how important concepts from such subjects as biology and the agriculture

sciences help one to see the "big picture."

Students who would like to continue their education after earning an associate degree also can transfer credits to selected senior colleges or universities in subject areas such as forestry, wildlife, and agricultural education.

Graduate Susie Avery, now a forestry technician with the South Carolina Forestry Commission at Harbison State Park near Columbia, says that Central Carolina's NRM program made excellent opportunities available for her and that she knows it can do the same for others.

"My job includes everything from tree management and timber management to prescribed burning and heavy equipment operation," said Avery, whose work spreads over an area of over 2,000 acres. "Central Carolina's program really does make the difference."

For more information, contact the college at 1-800-221-8711, ext. 205.

by Raymond Watkins,
Director of Public Relations and Outreach

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